

# Victoria Park Residents to Fight 'Poker City' Plan

## Gambling City Plan Hit by Residents

A campaign to protest the proposed incorporation of Victoria Park as a brand new gambling city was outlined at a meeting in Towne Elementary School Tuesday night.

### Special Census May Be Held Here in March

Request for a special census designed to show that Torrance's population is now officially over the 100,000 mark, was shelved for one week.

City Manager George Stevens requested that the issue be held until next March in order that the city can collect its rightful share of gasoline tax allocations.

In line with the growing population, Mayor Albert Isen also asked the Planning Commission to find available land for residential use, to expand the downtown commercial area and zone for apartments in the central area.

### 'Wealthy' Beggar Trial Set

Margie Dutton will appear in Torrance Municipal Court Wednesday to explain why she was begging from churches and a woman's club when she had more than \$120 in her possession.

The 28-year-old Gardena woman, who told police she owns four homes, pleaded not guilty to a begging charge when she was arraigned before Judge Otto B. Willett Tuesday.

Mrs. Dutton who has been arrested numerous times under various names in Southern California, was arrested here Jan. 12 when she collected approximately \$9 from a sewing class in the Torrance Woman's Club, after telling a hard luck story.

She told the sympathetic members that she hadn't eaten for 31 hours, had three youngsters to take care of and that her husband threatened to beat her.

After police questioning she freed herself by posting \$100 bail from money she had in her possession.

### Guilty Plea in Wife Killing

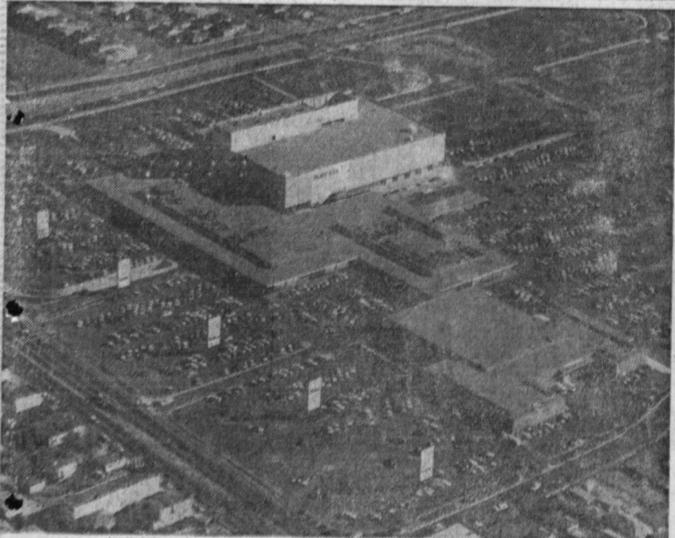
Weneth Ray Crane, 29, pleaded guilty to a manslaughter charge in the shooting of his wife, Joan, 27, last Halloween night.

Judge John A. Shidler set Feb. 13 as the date at which to determine if the shooting with a 16-gauge shotgun comprised voluntary or involuntary manslaughter. Sentencing and hearing on probation will be held Feb. 20 in Inglewood Superior Court.

Crane was arrested after he called police to the couple's home, at 22910 Cabrillo Ave. His wife, Joan, a real estate saleswoman, was shot in the chest.

Crane admitted to police that he and his wife had an argument over her housekeeping and financial matters and that he intended to leave.

During his preliminary hearing, his attorney attempted to open the door to a defense that the gun was fired accidentally.



**NEARING COMPLETION**—Scheduled to open in the next few weeks, finishing touches are being made on the giant new May Company South Bay unit in the South Bay Shopping Center at Hawthorne Blvd. and 174th St. Built at an estimated cost of \$6,000,000, the new May Co. unit will be the seventh May Co. store

in the Southern California area. May Company's newest suburban store is a 3-story structure containing 351,000 square feet and will be a major store in the Shopping Center which now includes Ralphs, Newberrys, Thrifty, South Bay Bowling Alley, Steak Knife Restaurant and numerous others. Parking is provided for 5800 cars.

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# New Oil Boom Looms in Old South Torrance Field

## Deeper Strata Struck

Discovery of a new, deeper and promising major oil zone in the Torrance area was announced this morning by C. G. Perry, president of the Perry Oil Company.

The new zone was encountered at 5,320 feet, some 2000 feet below the Del Amo zone, the deepest producing zone in the field. Petroleum engineers had long suspected the existence of major productive sand at this depth—a possible continuation of the rich Wilmington field—but no definite proof of the new zone was obtained until a Perry rig reached the new strata early Sunday morning at 235th St. and Walnut Ave.

Cement pouring began immediately and by the end of this week an accurate assessment of the area's potential should be possible, according to W. E. Luckett, petroleum engineer for the Union Pacific railroad's interest in Wilmington and long-time consultant to the Perry Company.

Discovery of the new zone below the Del Amo will greatly affect the Torrance area, since operators of shallower, uneconomic wells in the vicinity are expected to begin deepening their existing holes to reach the new zone at comparably small drilling costs.

President Perry was encouraged to attempt deep drilling in the old Torrance field when his petroleum engineers pointed out that electric logs charted from two earlier test holes—one in 1947 and another in 1956—indicated the existence of a major reservoir under the Del Amo.

Perry's petroleum geologists believe the new zone probed by the Barlow 1 extends continuously north and south for three-quarters of a mile and at least this distance northwest-southwest.

## Pair Saved from Underground Tomb



**COMING UP**—Rescue workers are shown as they uncovered face of Pete Dodge, 19, (arrows) who with his boss, Jay Ravin, 45, was saved from live burial in a sewer hole cave-in Monday afternoon. The two men were at the bottom of the 18-foot excavation. (See Story on Page 4)

and were just getting ready to be hoisted out by cable when the soft wet sand cascaded down on them. Photo at left shows Wayne Watkins, Ravin's partner, who directed the 90-minute rescue operation. Press Photo by Dot Daniels.

## Jewelry Missing From Jail

Disappearance of a \$1000 ring while its owner was locked up in the Torrance jail last month, was charged in an affidavit submitted to the City Council Tuesday.

Newell John Gardner, a Los Angeles attorney, filed the document in behalf of two clients who were arrested by Redondo Beach police, and held in the Torrance city jail.

The affidavit alleges in so many words that John Milton Turner, Jr., and Jerry Servillo were subjects of a Redondo Beach police "roust," and that both men were held from Dec. 12 through 17 and then released.

The attorney charged that during the period of imprisonment here, a gold ring containing a one-half carat diamond, disappeared from the storage locker where it was kept. He said that Turner, who owned the ring, which was taken off when he was booked, furnished him with a police receipt for the ring.

Both men will make claims against Torrance and Redondo Beach, seeking reimbursement for the ring and for auto storage charges, and also for what they claim constituted false imprisonment and loss of earnings, Gardner said.

Torrance police officials said that they had nothing to do with the booking or the custody of the men's property, since part of their facilities are used exclusively by Redondo Beach police under a lease agreement.

Redondo Beach has a contract with Torrance under which they keep their prisoners here, since their own jail was condemned.

## Park Viewed as Bus Terminal

A bus terminal switch was recommended to the City Council Tuesday by Superintendent M. A. Chamberlain.

The new site suggested is a small rectangular park on the north side of Torrance Blvd. between Sartori Ave. and Engracia Ave.

It was suggested that a building and restrooms be constructed at the site at a cost not to exceed \$2000.

## Civic Leader Named Head of New South Bay May Co.

A veteran of more than 25 years with the May Co. Department stores, John J. Preis, has been named general manager of the new May Co. South Bay unit due to open within the next few weeks. The announcement was made by Tom May, executive vice president of the company.

The imposing multi-million dollar store, is in the heart of the South Bay Shopping Center, Hawthorne Blvd. at 174th St.

Preis, who joined the May Co. in 1933, was the first general manager of the firm's Crenshaw unit, and also served as general manager of the May Co. Wilshire.



JOHN J. PREIS

In addition to serving the Los Angeles retail and business fraternity, Preis has long been active in the civic and public service affairs of the community. At the present time he is the Los Angeles County Fund Campaign Chairman for Muscular Dystrophy, member of the Board of Governors, Los Angeles County Art Institute; charter treasurer, Otis Associates, Los Angeles County Art Associates; president

## Owner of Guttled House Appeals Rebuilding Ban

A woman whose house burned down recently, demanded this week that the City Council reverse a building department order which refuses her a permit to rebuild on her property at 23811 Eshelman Ave.

Mrs. Marguerite Givens said that when she applied for a permit to rebuild the house, she was refused on grounds that she is in a hazard area because of low water pressure.

"In this action, the City of Torrance has in effect confiscated my property and denied me the right of ownership," she asserted.

A hearing on declaring South Torrance a building hazard area is set for Tuesday.

## Ingram Heads Police Group

Huey (Buck) Ingram is the new president of the Torrance Police Officers Association, succeeding Tom Pattishall.

Other new officers elected Tuesday are Sam Piazza, vice

president, Lois Reynolds, secretary, Vince Davey, treasurer, and Bob Hammond, trustee.

Holdover trustees are Ralph Walker, Maxine Hahn, Dave Cook and Jim Daniels.

## Speedy Rental Through Press Pleases Landlady

Mrs. Richard Eakin, of 25334 Oak St., Lomita, was so pleased with the results of a Torrance Press classified ad, that she wished she had more than one house for rent.

The response to her ad for a two bedroom house was so fast, that she was able to rent it the same day to a very nice family.

"We could have rented several houses, the response was that good," Mrs. Eakin said.

If you have something to rent, sell or buy, take advantage of the fast results of Torrance Press want ads by calling an ad-taker at FA 8-2345.

## SUPERINTENDENTS CONFER

Torrance School Superintendent J. H. Hull hosted 17 other school superintendents from this area at an all-day meeting in the Educational Materials Building here Friday.



**NEW OIL BOOM** — That was the prediction of C. G. Perry, whose independent company claims to have discovered a rich new oil strata at a depth of 5320 underneath the existing oil

zone. He said the discovery was made in drilling a well at 235th St. and Walnut Ave. Sunday. There are approximately 300 existing wells in the area.